Indian Prisoners List

363. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Interior Ministry has prepared a list of 182 Indian Prisoners in Pakistan on the basis of a survey;

(b) whether a Pakistani daily, which published the list, stated that these people are languishing in Pakistani prisons on unknown charges;

(c) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(d) whether the government have sought consular access to these prisoners and asked Pakistan to officially release this list; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Pakistani Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Pakistani media on February 2, 2005, reported that the Pakistan Government has prepared a list of 182 Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails.

(d) Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for confirmation and for early grant of consular access as well as release and repatriation.

(e) Response of the Government of Pakistan is awaited.

Maoist threat to India

364. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether growing clout of Maoist in Nepal is a threat to India's security;

(b) whether Government hold the view that the Maoists in Nepal have links with Naxalite insurgents in many Indian states; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to protect India's interest from these insurgent movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) Government of India has provided assistance as required by Government of Nepal in dealing with the challenges posed by the Maoist insurgency. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed along the India-Nepal border to strengthen security in the border areas. A network of Institutional dialogue mechanisms with the Government of Nepal has been evolved to discuss cross-border security issues.

Dismissal of Nepalese Prime Minister

365. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the recent development in Nepal where Nepal's King Gyanendra dismissed the Prime Minister and his cabinet and also imposed a state of emergency suspending fundamental rights of its citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of political leaders of Nepal have taken refuge in our country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government of India has expressed grave concern following the dismissal of the multi-party government, declaration of emergency, arrest of political leaders and others and imposition of media censorship in Nepal on February 1, 2005. These developments constitute a serious setback to the cause of democracy and would only benefit the anti-constitutional forces. India has always believed that the challenges being faced by Nepal can be addressed effectively only on the basis of national consensus. In this context, we have called for a return to democratic processes at the earlist. All arrested political leaders, media personnel, intellectuals and human rights activists should be released immediately and allowed to exercise their Constitutional rights. On its